(vi) Better utilization of available computer network.

(vii) Streamlining of administration and manpower so that there is neither excess nor less work at every desk, and to make constant efforts for improving the quality of work by the Registry staff.

High Courts have been requested to adopt similar measures to reduce the pendency of cases. The High Courts have also been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, *inter-alia,* expedite disposal of pending cases.

The Central Government has initiated a pilot project for Computerisation of City Civil Courts in the four metropolises of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata at an approximate cost of Rs. 14.91 crores to serve as a model.

An amount of Rs. 518.76 lakhs has been released during 2002-2003 for the use of Information Technology in courts to various States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. This will include establishment of computerised enquiry/facilitation centres in the high Courts.

Amendment to Representation of People Act

†1307. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any policy to bring sweeping changes in the Representation of People Act keeping in view the corruption and rising trend of criminalisation in politics;

(b) whether Government propose to form a code of conduct with regard to elected representatives:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Government has introduced several Bills seeking to check corruption and criminalisation in politics. The Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 05.12.2001, seeks to provide for open ballot system in respect of elections to Rajya Sabha (for checking reported prevalence of money power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in Rajya Sabha elections). The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 introduced in Lok Sabha on 19.03.2002 provides for *inter alia* funding of elections to the political parties (for checking corruption and money power in elections). The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which seeks to implement the consensus arrived at in the all parties meetings held on 08.07.2002 and 02.08.2002 on certain aspects of criminalisation of politics, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25.11.2002 (again for checking criminalisation of politics). The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002, is also proposed to be introduced in the current session, which seeks to rationalize sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (for providing enhanced period of disqualification in cases of imprisonment).

(b) to (d) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002 mentioned above also provides for declaration of assets and liabilities by the legislators (elected candidates) before the presiding officers of their concerned Houses. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that there is no other proposal under consideration of that Ministry to formulate a Code of Conduct for the legislators.

Cases of Nationalised Banks in Lok Adalats

†1308. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lok Adalats in Delhi are hearing the cases of loans pertaining to nationalized banks;

(b) whether the Lok Adalats can force one of the parties to obey its order;

(c) whether these Lok Adalats have the right to order action against a party in above cases under the criminal law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (No. 39 of 1987), award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court and the award is final and binding on all the parties.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.